Western Kentucky University

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?

■ Initiate or extend programs that improve student success and increase college-going among P-12 students (both at middle grades and high school levels) and other constituents, particularly targeting low college-going groups (e.g., adult learners and nontraditional students, individuals from area counties that have low college-going rates).

■ Enhance programs that promote college-level preparation by students such as dual credit programs, Advanced Placement training for teachers, gifted studies programming aimed at developing and supporting talented students of various ages, and other similarly focused projects, developed or delivered through productive partnerships with area schools and school systems as appropriate.

■ Provide outreach to P-12 students through targeted programs in the arts, humanities, science, and technology designed to promote student interest and achievement.

■ Increase student success in P-12 through increasing school-based programs (university faculty in the schools) and through innovative programs in teacher education that document teachers' impact on increasing student learning.

2. Are more students enrolling?

■ Pursue an innovative and aggressive marketing and recruitment plan that increases numbers of academically talented and highly qualified students, both undergraduate and graduate.

■ Increase student access through distance learning (particularly the KYVU), community college, postsecondary centers, and delivery systems that respond to time and place needs.

■ Create a campus culture that leads to increased diversity of the student body.

■ Improve student transition into the university through increased awareness of academic programs, admission requirements, and scholarship opportunities.

■ Develop scholarship and financial aid capacity through public and private resources to allow Western to recruit and matriculate deserving students capable of successful university study.

3. Are more students advancing through the system?

■ Increase undergraduate student retention and graduation rates in line with CPE key indicators and WKU's strategic plan.

■ Ensure seamless transfer of KCTCS students

■ Provide access to high quality programs of study that are responsive to student interests and workplace needs.

■ Create a stimulating and inviting campus environment that promotes student learning and increases retention.

■ Ensure that students advance and succeed through the implementation of a fully articulated student support system that includes benchmarks to measure impact of the system.

4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?

■ Implement a new general education program, including assessment of key general education competencies (reading, writing, mathematics, problem-solving, and critical thinking) important for success in life and careers.

■ Develop innovative programs that enhance and expand student engagement experiences within and beyond the classroom (e.g., internships, study abroad, undergraduate research, community service, leadership development) to develop students' breadth, confidence, and competitiveness in the workplace.

■ Strengthen the international dimension of the curriculum and of students' educational experiences through increasing international presence of faculty and students, increasing study abroad opportunities, and expanding interaction among domestic and international students on campus.

■ Expand community outreach opportunities in creative and accessible ways that address needs of diverse constituencies served by the university.

■ Continue and extend programs that assess student, alumni, and employer satisfaction with programs and graduates.

5. Are Kentucky's communities and economies benefiting?

■ Assume aggressive role in implementing the Kentucky Innovation Act through creative partnerships with business and government to establish a regional Innovation and Commercialization Center that provides regional economic/entrepreneurial leadership and assists in the development of successful new economy businesses.

■ Support appropriate collaborations and partnerships with other educational institutions (including P-12 schools), government, business and industry, and community agencies to expand educational opportunity and access as well as to support economic development, community advancement, and workforce needs.

■ Increase contract and grant activity that engages WKU faculty and students in applied research and service activities that contribute to economic development.

■ Ensure academic program quality throughout the curriculum -- including core arts and humanities areas essential to enhancing quality of life -- as a critical prerequisite to meaningful, long-term economic development.

■ Extend and focus efforts to improve the lives of children, families, and communities through curricular and outreach initiatives.